

Mayra Alaniz...someone in Milwaukee believed in my potential.

The Scholarship Committee has been reaching out to past scholarship recipients to get a sense of the impact the AAUW has had on their lives after high school. We hope to highlight a past recipient in upcoming newsletters until June 2017, when we plan to organize a reunion for past recipients.

Featured Scholarship recipient:

South Division High School graduate, **Mayra Alaniz**, received a \$5,000 AAUW scholarship in 2013. Although Mayra had said back then that she planned to attend Marquette University and major in social welfare and justice, instead she enrolled at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., where she is now a senior majoring in government and minoring in sociology.

During her college years, she says, she found her “lifelong passion for creating opportunities for the disadvantaged communities and giving back.”

To that end, her summers in Milwaukee have enabled her to apply her considerable talents and



Mayra with Alderman Murphy who started the MKE Plays program

gain experience with such programs as Artists Working in Education (above), and with a City of Milwaukee internship in mayoral constituent relations as a community engagement and evaluation intern for the MKE Plays project.

Mayra describes MKE Plays as an initiative to revitalize

parks in underserved areas of Milwaukee. She found participating in that program particularly fulfilling because it enabled her help change how the city interacts with its citizens and provide services to underprivileged communities.



Art Session in Clarke Square with AWE

Among the many opportunities Mayra is taking advantage of as a college student is a business-career development program called "Management Leadership for Tomorrow." That program, Mayra says, has equipped her with the strategic, analytical, and presentation skills necessary to run “just about anything.” Through MLT, she has been able to travel “all over the U.S. to visit partners like LinkedIn, Deloitte, and Target to understand real world business dilemmas.”



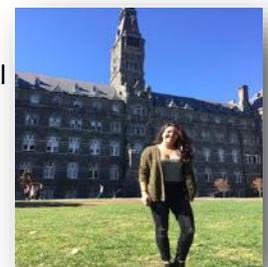
Mayra with her MLT Career Coach who has helped navigate her career goals at a Cargill Conference in St Paul, MN

She also participates in the Georgetown University Institute for College Preparation as an assistant program recruiter/program coordinator.

After graduating in the spring with a bachelor’s degree, Mayra is looking forward to not only continuing to work in the area of her passion and grow her skill set, but to enroll in an MBA or Public Policy Masters program.

And how did receiving an AAUW scholarship contribute to the path Mayra has taken at Georgetown? “Receiving an AAUW scholarship was exactly what I needed to feel confident going off to Georgetown University knowing that someone in Milwaukee believed in my potential and invested in who I could become.”

That investment is paying off not only for Mayra, but possibly will continue to do so for Milwaukee as well, “As I am highly considering returning to the Milwaukee area post graduation to contribute my talent,” she says.



Mayra at Georgetown